

Cape Cod. If you *must* do your eclipse observing from sunny California, there will be a dandy in 2017!

#### IMPORTANT INSECT COLLECTION

CURATOR EDWARD S. ROSS and his associates in the Entomology Department are at work incorporating the Parshley collection of Hemiptera into the Department's already large holdings of this major group of insects.

The collection, some 25,000 specimens in all, was made by the late Howard M. Parshley, professor of entomology, Smith College. Funds for its acquisition last summer were supplied by Mrs. Owen Bryant, a Patron of the Academy. According to Dr. Ross, this new collection added to existing material, including that of the late E. P. Van Duzee, former curator of entomology and a specialist in Hemiptera, makes the Academy one of the important centers in the world for the study of this group.

Dr. Ross has been invited to give a lecture on February 17 at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. The institution is celebrating the opening of a new Hall of Insects.

#### KELLEY ILLUSTRATES NEW BOOK

THE COVER AND ILLUSTRATIONS of a new book by Vinson Brown are by Don Greame Kelley, editor of *Pacific Discovery*. The book, *How to Make a Home Nature Museum*, was published by Little, Brown and Company.

#### MASSACHUSETTS SOJOURN

W. I. FOLLETT, Curator of Ichthyology, recently returned from the Boston meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, where he presided at a panel discussion presented by the Society of Systematic Zoology. The topic was the nomenclatorial decisions of the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, in which Mr. Follett participated last summer at Copenhagen.

After the Boston meetings, he spent part of two days examining fish specimens at Harvard's well-known Museum of Comparative Zoology.

#### NEW MEMBERS

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS were elected by the Council at its meeting of January 14, 1954:

##### REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

Miss Italia F. Birkinsha  
Miss Alice Blackmun  
Mr. John H. Dakin  
Dr. L. H. Garland  
Mr. H. Hilt Hansen  
Mr. William P. Kratzer  
Mr. N. J. Malville  
Mrs. Frances P. Morse  
Mr. James A. Orr  
Mrs. Robert Sofio  
Miss Marjory E. Varney  
Mr. Ralph G. Webber  
Mr. Herman J. Willis

##### FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Carl E. Copley  
Dr. Waldron R. Gardiner  
Mr. Harold A. Kennedy  
Mr. James I. Lewis  
Mr. William L. Shattuck  
Mr. Oleg Yadoff

##### LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Mr. James B. Gibson

##### STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

William T. Davies  
Michael Preisman

# ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

Number 170

February, 1954



#### LIVE TEDDY BEAR

The story of the Koala is included in the film library  
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*Published Monthly by*

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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# CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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## February Announcement

THE REGULAR FEBRUARY MEETING will be held at 8 P. M., Wednesday, February 24, in the Morrison Auditorium, California Academy of Sciences. Robert C. Hermes, Audubon screen tour lecturer, will present a color film:

### "ONCE UPON AN ISLAND"

Admittedly, Hermes has a special regard for islands; Bonaventure in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, was the subject of his lecture here in December 1952. The new motion picture program he will present is described as the story of his island adventures. To birds and animals, islands are true sanctuaries, Hermes tells us, but not necessarily ones that are bathed in tranquillity, as the film will show. Stars of the motion picture include: eider ducks, puffins, cormorants, and various terns; murre, whirlingig beetles, seals, and whales.

Hermes, who has been making nature films since 1930, dates his interest in nature from the time a cousin read aloud to him Gene Stratton Porter's *Moths of the Limberlost*. Although only 12, he immediately began collecting moths. Gradually he went from the study of insects to birds and then to four-footed animals. As a photographer he has covered the full range of natural history subjects.

### FILM LIBRARY OPENS

THE OPENING of the new library of science films here was announced to the public on February 4 by Dr. Robert C. Miller, director of the Academy. Now available for circulation are approximately one hundred 16mm. films.

According to Dr. Miller, the library will provide the latest and best science films at a low rental fee to Western schools, conservation groups, youth organizations, and interested groups and individuals. Subject matter of the films ranges from the plant and animal life of land and sea to astronomy and the physical sciences, including topics such as jet propulsion and atomic energy. Within the library one can find filmed versions of most of nature's dramatic acts: sea eagles building nests, the mysterious migration of the Monarch butterfly, the slow paced comedy of life among the opossums, the antics of duck-billed platypuses, or the uneclipsed drama of nature itself.

The purchase of this large supply of new educational films was made possible by a grant from the Trustees of the May Treat Morrison Trust Estate. Equipment for the storage, servicing and mailing of the films was purchased with funds made available by the Rosenberg Foundation.

The motion pictures in the new library were carefully selected by a committee that judged them both for scientific accuracy and for educational and enter-

tainment values. Most of the films are designed to appeal to anyone, child or adult, who is interested in science and the world about us. However, some of the films were made expressly for elementary and high school students, and a few are geared to a technical, college level.

Schools or organized groups may obtain free catalogs by writing to the Academy. Kenneth F. Innes is in charge of the library.

### STILL A CHAMPION

THE MORTALITY RATE being what it is among television shows, "Science in Action" is well past middle age. But it has lost none of its punch to San Franciscans, who have just voted it the champion of local TV programs. "Science in Action" for the fourth consecutive time has won the annual poll conducted by Dwight Newton, television editor of the San Francisco *Examiner*. It was swept into top billing by a landslide ballot, receiving twice as many votes as the nearest competitor.

But that isn't all; over on top of the Rocky Mountains, where the Colorado National Bank sponsors the program, another poll has just been taken by the *Denver TV Weekly*. "Science in Action" took the decision in the instructional category.

During the four years the program has been on the air in San Francisco, it has been sponsored by the American Trust Company. At this time it is being broadcast in Atlanta and Honolulu, as well as here and in Denver. Its total audience is more than a million persons.

Members of the production team who turn out a 30-minute show each week are executive producer Ben Draper, writers Freda McCaig and Larry Russell, and of course, program host Dr. Earl S. Herald. The production committee providing over-all planning and supervision includes Dr. Robert C. Miller, director of the Academy, Lester B. Johnson, assistant vice president of American Trust Company, and Kenneth D. Jones, McCann-Erickson Advertising Agency. Director of the program at KRON-TV is Vern Loudon. "Science in Action" is presented each Tuesday at 7 P. M.

### ASTRONOMY SECTION NOTES

ASTRONOMERS, professional and amateur alike, are busily preparing for two big events occurring later this year. During late June and early July the planet Mars will be closer and, therefore, more favorably placed for observation than at any time since October 1941. On June 30 a total eclipse of the sun will be observed across parts of the Great Lakes region; it will be extensively observed there, as well as from parts of Scandinavia and central Europe.

This month's astronomy section program is titled "Making Ready for Big Astronomical Events in 1954." Leon E. Salanave, Planetarium lecturer in charge of the Astronomy Section, will describe how people interested in viewing these events can prepare to get a good look. The Section will meet at 8 P. M., Wednesday, February 24, in the Students' Lecture Room.

Incidentally, stay-at-homes can get another chance to view Mars in 1956, but as far as the continental United States is concerned, another chance at a total solar eclipse will not come until 1959—and that will be poorly placed, near